

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) A document management system comprising:

a host computer;

an image information processing apparatus;

a document management server that manages electronic document data; and

a network that connects said host computer, said image information processing apparatus, and said document management server to each other; and

wherein said image information processing apparatus comprises:

an image information reading device that reads image information;

~~an output device that outputs the image information read by said image information reading device and print data output from said host computer;~~

a searching device that searches the electronic document data within said document management server for original electronic document data corresponding to ~~electronic document data within~~ the read image information; ~~and~~

a setting device that sets, based on a user operation, whether or not a file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data is attached to an electronic mail; and

a notifying device that notifies a result of search by said searching device as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored,

wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted when said setting device sets that the searched original electronic document data is to be attached.

and wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is not attached to the electronic mail when said setting device sets that the searched original electronic document data is not to be attached.

2. (Original) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said searching device comprises a character recognition device.

3. (Original) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said searching device comprises a watermarked information sensing device.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said image information processing apparatus comprises an operating section, and said notifying device displays the result of search in said operating section.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein in a case where a plurality of original electronic document files corresponding to ~~the electronic document data within the output~~ the read image information are searched out, the result of search includes correspondence information indicative of priorities assigned to the plurality of original electronic document files according to degrees of correspondence.

9. (Currently amended) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said image information processing apparatus further comprises:

a printing device;

a controller operable when original electronic document data corresponding to ~~the electronic document data within~~ the read image information is present within said document management server, to cause said printing device to print the original electronic document data.

10. (Currently amended) A document management system according to claim 1, wherein said image information processing apparatus further comprises:

a storage device; and

a controller operable when original electronic document data corresponding to the electronic document data within the read image information is present within said document management server, to provide control to store data obtained by rendering the original electronic document data in said storage device.

11. (Currently amended) A document management method ~~for a document management system in which a host computer, of operating~~ an image information processing apparatus, and a document management server which manages electronic document data ~~are connected to each other via a network,~~ the method comprising:

an image information reading step of reading image information;

~~an output step of outputting the image information read in said image information-reading step and print data output from the host computer;~~

a searching step of searching the electronic document data within the document management server for original electronic document data corresponding to ~~electronic document data within~~ the read image information; and

a setting step of setting, based on a user operation, whether or not a file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data is attached to an electronic mail; and

a notifying step of notifying a user of transmitting a result of search in said searching step as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored.

wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted when it is set in said setting step that the searched original electronic document data is to be attached.

and wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is not attached to the electronic mail when it is set in said setting step that the searched original electronic document data is not to be attached.

12. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to execute a document management method for a document management system in which a host computer, of operating an image information processing apparatus, and connected via a network to a document management server which manages electronic document data are connected to each other via a network, the method comprising

an image information reading module for step of reading image information;

an output module for outputting the image information read by said image information reading module and print data output from the host computer;

a searching module for step of searching the electronic document data within the document management server for original electronic document data corresponding to electronic document data within the read image information; and

a setting step of setting, based on a user operation, whether or not a file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data is attached to an electronic mail; and

~~a notifying module for notifying a user of step of transmitting~~ a result of search by in said searching module step as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored.

wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted when it is set in said setting step that the searched original electronic document data is to be attached.

and wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is not attached to the electronic mail when it is set in said setting step that the searched original electronic document data is not to be attached.

13. (New) An document management system according to claim 1, wherein the user operation is executed via a web browser of an external computer that is connected via the network to the image information processing apparatus.

14. (New) An image information processing apparatus connected via a network to a document management server that manages electronic document data, the image information processing apparatus comprises:

a searching unit that searches the electronic document data within said document management server for original electronic document data corresponding to image information read by an reading unit;

a setting unit that sets, based on a user operation, whether or not a file corresponding to the searched original electronic document data is attached to an electronic mail;

a transmitting unit that transmits a result of search by said searching unit as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address, the result of search including information indicative of a location where the searched original electronic document data is stored,

wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is attached to the electronic mail to be transmitted when it is set in said setting step that the searched original electronic document data is to be attached,

and wherein the file of the searched original electronic document data is not attached to the electronic mail when it is set in said setting step that the searched original electronic document data is not to be attached.